



Application No. 10/666,211
Amendment dated April 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2005

Docket No. 1232-5161

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9 and 12-17 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An exposure method comprising the steps of:

illuminating a pattern formed on a mask using an illumination system that forms an effective light source having a first part that mainly includes only s-polarized light and a second part that mixes s-polarized light and p-polarized light; and
projecting, through a projection optical system having the effective light source at its pupil plane, light from a pattern of the mask onto an object to be exposed.

2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An exposure method according to claim 1, wherein the first part of the effective light source has an annular shape in which the s-polarized light polarizes in a tangential direction of the annular shape.

3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An exposure method according to claim 2, wherein the second part of the effective light source has a circular shape that is located inside the first part of the effective light source.

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An exposure method according to claim 2, wherein the second part of the effective light source has an annular shape corresponding to the shape of the aperture stop that is located inside the first part of the effective light source.

5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An exposure method according to claim 1, wherein light intensity of the second part of the effective light source is smaller than that of the first part.

6-17 (CANCELLED):